## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE NASHVILLE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)
Plaintiff,	) ) Case No. 3:20-cy-00090
V.	) Case No. 5:20-cv-00090
	) Judge William L. Campbell, Ju
\$21,800.00 UNITED STATES CURRENCY,	)
D 0 1	)
Defendant.	)
DOMINIC LYONS, Claimant	)

## ENTRY OF DEFAULT

Pending is Plaintiff's Second Amended Application to Clerk for Entry of Default (Doc. No. 24) pursuant to Rule 55(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as to \$21,800.00 in United States currency.

Pursuant to Rule G of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions ("Supplemental Rules"), the United States is required to give both general notice of this In Rem action to the public as well as direct notice to any known potential claimants. The United States may satisfy the public notice requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. Supp. R. G(4)(a)(iv)(C) with publication "on an official internet government forfeiture site for at least 30 consecutive days." Direct notice "must be sent by means reasonably calculated to reach the potential claimant." Fed. R. Civ. P. Supp. G(4)(b)(iii)(A). Notice may be sent to either the claimant or the attorney representing him or her with respect to the forfeiture or a related proceeding. Fed. R. Civ. P. Supp. G(4)(b)(iii)(B).

Here, Plaintiff filed the Verified Complaint In Rem on January 31, 2020. (Doc. No. 1). According to paralegal Deborah Krause, on February 7, 2020, the Verified Complaint In Rem, Affidavit, and Notice of Judicial Forfeiture Proceedings were served upon potential claimants Dominic Lyon<sup>1</sup> and Jessica Lyons at 804 Curtis Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37207 by regular and certified mail as well as attorney Jacek W. Lentz at 1200 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 406, Los Angeles, California 90017. (Doc. No. 25 at Exs. 1-2). Ms. Krause declares that the Verified Complaint In Rem, Affidavit, and Notice of Judicial Forfeiture Proceedings served on Dominic Lyon and Jessica Lyons were returned "unclaimed." (*Id.* at Ex. 3). She further declares that the same documents sent by regular mail were not returned. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 5).

On March 11, 2020, Dominic Lyons filed a Verified Claim asserting an interest in the Defendant property. (Doc. No. 4).

According to Ms. Krause, publication of the Notice of Judicial Forfeiture Proceedings was made online at www.forfeiture.gov, the official internet government forfeiture site, for 30 consecutive days beginning on February 8, 2020 and ending on March 8, 2020. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 7).

Ms. Krause further declares that, on June 18, 2020, using a date of birth and social security number which she believed in good faith to be Jessica Lyons's, Ms. Krause accessed the data base for the Department of Defense Manpower Data Center and was provided a Military Status Report. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 12). According to Ms. Krause, the Military Status Report indicated that Jessica Lyons is not in the military service of the United States. (*Id.*, Ex. 5). Additionally, Ms. Krause confirms that Jessica Lyons is not a minor or incapacitated person. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 11).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ms. Krause refers to the potential claimants as Dominic Lyon and Jessica Lyons (Doc. No. 25) whereas Plaintiff's Motion refers to these individuals as Dominic Lyons and Jessica Lyons. (Doc. No. 12). Dominic Lyon<u>s</u> filed a Verified Claim. (Doc. No. 4).

On February 23, 2021, using a date of birth and social security number which she believed

in good faith to be Dominic Lyons's, Ms. Krause accessed the data base for the Department of

Defense Manpower Data Center and was provided a Military Status Report. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 13).

According to Ms. Krause, the Military Status Report indicated that Jessica Lyons is not in the

military service of the United States. (Id., Ex. 6). Additionally, Ms. Krause confirms that Dominic

Lyons is not a minor or incapacitated person. (Doc. No. 25 ¶ 11).

More than sixty (60) days have passed since the first day of publication of the notice on

the official government internet web site and no person or entity, other than Dominic Lyons,

filed a claim or answer, or otherwise made an appearance in this action. The time for filing a

claim pursuant to Rule G(5) of the Supplemental Rules has expired.

On February 4, 2021, this Court entered an order striking the claim filed by Dominic Lyons

for failure to file an answer or to otherwise offer an explanation excusing his failure to do so. (Doc.

No. 17). As a result, the Court found that Mr. Lyons lacked statutory standing to pursue a claim in

this case. Id.

For the reasons stated herein, Plaintiff's Second Amended Application to Clerk for Entry

of Default as to all persons and entities who may have an interest in \$21,800.00 United States

Currency, (Doc. No. 24), is hereby **GRANTED.** 

s/ Lynda M. Hill

Lynda M. Hill

Clerk of Court

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